



News From:

U.S. Congressman John B. Larson

serving Connecticut's First District

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Larson, Murphy Announce \$750,000 for Torrington's Downtown Redevelopment Project

Washington, D.C. – Last night, The House of Representatives passed legislation that includes a \$750,000 grant for the City of Torrington's Main Street Realignment Project, an effort which will make the downtown business and entertainment district safer for residents by building new roadways and intersections. Currently, The Connecticut Department of Public Safety grades the intersection with near failing grade of "D" for vehicular traffic disruptions and overall risk to public safety.

Both U.S. Congressmen John B. Larson (CT-01) and Chris Murphy (CT-05) advocated for the inclusion of the funding for Torrington in the House Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) Appropriations bill.

"The reconfiguration of Downtown Main Street is essential to the Torrington's redevelopment efforts. Currently, the city's downtown intersection ranks as one of the most dangerous roads in the state. With public attractions, businesses, and educational institutions, Downtown Torrington is a heavily congested area within the city. □ This funding is essential to the city's economic development and to ensuring the public safety of visitors and local residents," said Congressman Larson.

“Downtown Torrington is a great place to catch a show at the Warner or grab dinner at one of its many great restaurants. □ But as more people utilize what the city has to offer, the traffic increases. □ This road project will alleviate a lot of the gridlock we see now, and make it safer for pedestrians,” said Murphy.

The City of Torrington is currently in the process of redeveloping its downtown district. A major component of these redevelopment efforts includes reconfiguring the existing roadway on Main Street to be both pedestrian- and vehicle-friendly. Furthermore, the realignment of Main Street will improve public safety and meet state-imposed standards on safety and traffic flow. Downtown Torrington is home to many small and emerging businesses, UConn's Torrington Campus, and the Warner Theatre.

Earlier in the year, both Congressmen Larson and Murphy met with Torrington Mayor Ryan Bingham in Washington, D.C. to discuss the downtown redevelopment project and the overall benefits of growing the economy in Torrington and Litchfield County.

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill that will make targeted investments to provide short term housing and job relief to those hurt most by the economic downturn, as well as long-term solutions like improving our national infrastructure to put our economy on sound footing for the future.

It invests in the next generation of high-speed passenger and commuter rail service to increase access to public transportation, save consumers money, and help wean us off of our addiction to foreign oil.

In addition, the bill invests in grant programs that will revitalize neighborhoods, spur economic development in vacant commercial and industrial sites and improve our nation's aging highway

system to make transportation safer and more efficient.

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